



NEWS Release

Montana State Parks • 1420 E. 6th Avenue • Helena, MT 59620

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Decision Notice Issued for Thompson Falls State Park Pond Improvement Project

(Helena, MT) – Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that a decision notice has been issued for improvements to facilities and fish habitat at the Family Fishing Pond at Thompson Falls State Park located near Thompson Falls, MT. The decision is to move forward with improvements to the fish pond. By notification of this Decision Notice the Environmental Assessment (EA) is hereby made the Final EA.

The improvements will be made through collaboration between Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and Avista Corp to enlarge the size of the existing family fishing pond at Thompson Falls State Park. The project will increase the surface area of the pond to 1.1 acres, and improve the facilities available in the park. Work will include: removing a causeway that currently divides the pond, deepening of the pond to a maximum depth of 20 feet, improving vehicle parking, installing signage, and construction of a trail from the parking area to and around the pond. Re-vegetation of the site will take place as needed once construction is completed. Other improvements include two universally accessible fishing platforms, a picnic shelter, and vault latrine.

This project will increase habitat within the pond, provide improved access, and enhance opportunities for successful fishing by visitors, including families and young anglers. Current access to the pond is a rough footpath that in areas is difficult for people with mobility challenges.

It was determined that the proposed action would have no significant effects on the human or physical environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

To view the Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment (EA) visit:

http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0044.html

A public comment process for the proposed project was open from May 1 through June 4, 2015. Seven public comments were received in support of the project. No comments were received in opposition.

Or go to stateparks.mt.gov and click on 'public notices/submit comments'.

For more information about Thompson Falls State Park visit: <http://stateparks.mt.gov/thompson-falls/>

This decision notice action is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to Fish, Wildlife & Parks

(FWP) Directors Office in writing and postmarked within 30 days (by July 17, 2015) of this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision-making process, and how FWP might address the concerns of the appeal.

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